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ALASKA People



MAY - JULY 2004

MOCK SALE READIED STAFF FOR LEASE SALE

At the end of the day on June 2, oil companies paid BLM \$54 million for leases in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. This demonstrated that oil companies were still interested in the petroleum resource, but for BLM Minerals staff it marked a new beginning.

It started with Minerals land law examiner **Carol Taylor**, who thought it was time the BLM conducted its own lease sale. The past two lease sales held in 1999 and 2002 were conducted by the Minerals Management Service. MMS has a long history and expertise conducting off shore lease sales. Instead of relying on MMS, Taylor thought BLM should preside over its own sale. "We needed to do it. It's BLM's sale. BLM should run it."

So Taylor got her way. As the sales coordinator, Taylor drew on her extensive background in land law adjudication from her years as a contact representative in BLM's public room.

But she relied mostly on her 13 Energy and Solid Minerals co-workers.



Carol Taylor



Practice Makes Perfect. It may be practice but the Energy staff were serious about making sure everything went just right at the mock sale preceding the NPRA sale held June 2. (l-r) **Henri Bisson**, state director; **Beth Maclean**, geologist, **Mark Meyer**, physical scientist; **Vanessa Hice**, land law examiner and **Leslie Torrence**, program analyst.

The public room staff, law enforcement and MMS would also lend a hand.

In early April, BLM minerals staff met with MMS to discuss the sale and solicit help from MMS employees Steve Flippen and Jan Stan. This meeting was a prelude

to a mock sale in mid-May.

Flippen, a former BLM Conveyances employee, provided an Excel spreadsheet that BLM modified to track lease tracts. He and Jan would work the "back room" during the sale.

As BLM prepared for the sale,
continued on page 4

Wow!!! OUTDOOR WEEK CELEBRATES 30 YEARS !!!

by Donna Gindle

Thirty years ago Microsoft was founded, the Rubik's cube was patented, and the United States and USSR embarked on the first joint venture into space. Closer to home, work began on the Trans-Alaska pipeline and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Anchorage School District partnered to bring an outdoor educational program to area sixth graders. Thanks to outdoor week founders Emma Walton, **Joette Storm**, **Les Rosenkrance**, Wilma Ljubicich and Patricia Gold, this tradition has thrived for three decades.

"Outdoor Week teaches students about natural resources in an outdoor classroom. It is a remarkable showcase of cooperation between federal, state and local organizations," said **June Bailey**, AFO manager during a formal celebration May 28 recognizing volunteers. "With 2,000 students annually attending Outdoor Week, we rely heavily on volunteer instructors."

Approximately 70 Outdoor Week volunteer presenters and organizers attended the celebration held at BLM's Campbell Creek Science Center. Guest speakers included Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich who said he was, "Proud of this facility (the science center) and what it does to people who have never experienced the wilderness. Our young people experience the activities (offered during Outdoor Week) and it gives them the Alaska experience."

"Anchorage is a great place to live with all its natural assets. The more we share with young people what we're doing in this facility we ensure these areas will be protected for generations to come," said Begich.

Other speakers included



Outdoor Week instructors from the past and present along with other fans of the outdoor educational program were onhand at the science center May 29 to celebrate the program's 30 years of serving the science and outdoor educational needs of Anchorage youth.

George Oviatt, acting associate state director; Patricia McRae, executive director of elementary education for the ASD; and Outdoor Week founders Walton and Storm.

Storm said of the three decades, "Most of us are pretty happy if we start a project and it last a while while. When people continue it for 30 years, that is really gratifying."

Thank you for keeping this going," said founder Walton who is retired from the ASD. Walton told the audience the biggest problem was with the teachers. "When teachers brought the kids out, the teacher wore high heels."

BLM geologist **Joe Kurtak**, a regular volunteer at the gold panning station for 20 years at Outdoor Week, said, "I believe it is real important to relate Alaska resources economic value and the

development of those resources in an environmentally-friendly situation is really important," says Kurtak.

Chelan Schreifels, an Outdoor Week volunteer presenter from the Army Corps of Engineers, attended Outdoor Week as a sixth-grader.

"I've come full circle. When they were looking for volunteers, I remembered coming here so I felt this was an opportunity to give back to the community. It made my heart glow to remember coming here so I felt this was an opportunity to give back to the community. It made my heart glow that this was still being offered. Hopefully my daughter will be able to enjoy it. Thanks for keeping this program going." *Donna Gindle is a public affairs specialist with the Anchorage Field Office.*

employee profile

Last year **Precious Williams**, an accounting major with Langston University worked with state budget officer **Carol Moore** to help track BLM Alaska's budget and monitor Alaska's annual work plan. Pulling reports and updating data from the management Information system (MIS), the Federal Financial system (FFS), and the Billings and Collections System (BCS) coincide with the MIS, accounting, business statistics, cost accounting, and other college classes in which Williams excels.

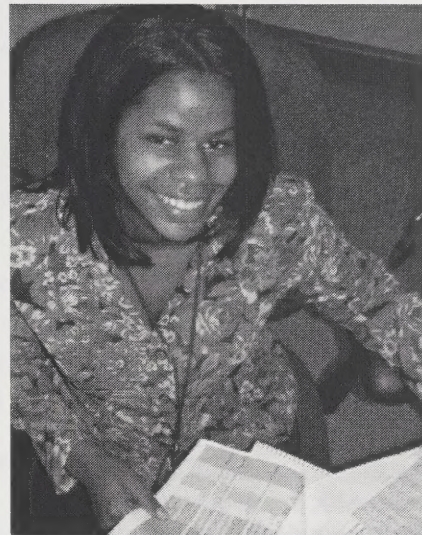
This summer she's back, having traded in her temporary student status (STEP) for a career student appointment (SCEP).

Williams, a native Nebraskan and honor roll student explains, that analyzing Excel spread sheets

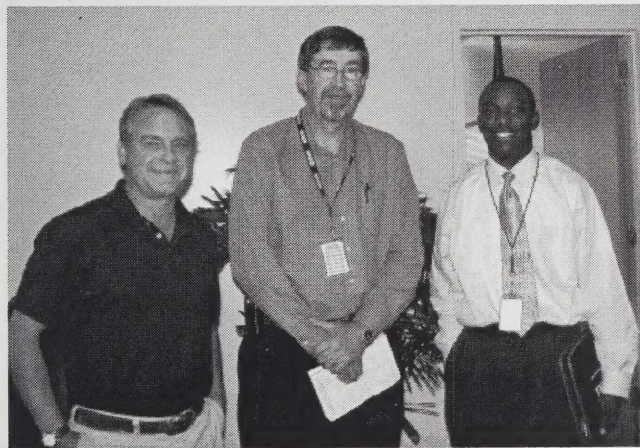
in class is similar to tracking BLM's travel and other expenditures in EXCEL with **Rick Gregg, Tiffany Martinez** and Moore."

Her analytical skills and affinity for mathematics run in the family. Her mother is a former mathematics teacher and her eldest sister holds a degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting.

Williams prefers working for the federal government. "My uncle was an engineer with the government. This is the first step to where I want to go. I look forward to growing and becoming a manager. Plus, there's more stability. I don't want to work for private firms." *Ella Wright, writer-editor, Support Services contributed to this story.*



Precious Williams
Budget Analyst



State Director does close out with student and supervisor.

(l-r) **John Sroufe, Henri Bisson** and **Benedict Parsons.**

hopes BLM will note his hard work, dedication and commitment to doing a good job so he can return to work for BLM next summer.

If its up to Sroufe—who rates Benedict's work as outstanding—he'll be back.

FIELD OFFICE RECEIVES GRANT

In May, the Anchorage Field Office received word that its project to restore the banks of the Campbell Creek would be funded by a challenge cost share grant. Under a cooperative conservation initiative, 377 conservation projects are being funded. The AFO is contributing \$8,000 with partners Alaska Fish and Game, Alaska Native Plant Society, Alaska Sportsmen's Association, Anchorage Waterways Council, REI, Trailside Discovery contributing a total of \$15,000.

The grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM and National Park Service fund a range of conservation projects in 43 states.

WAR INTERRUPTS STUDENT'S LIFE

Although student coordinator **Tonyua Abrom** recruited **Benedict Parsons** to work for BLM last year, he was instead deployed to Kuwait. BLM got lucky this year when the ambitious Parsons came to work in May for the Branch of Geographic coordinates database project under the watch of **John Sroufe.**

His employment with BLM ends a few weeks early because his Army National Guard unit is being deployed to Iraq at the end of August.

Parsons, a Junior at Langston University, seeking a BS in Computer Aided Drafting/Science, was supposed to graduate in the spring of 2005 but the deployments have delayed his graduation. He's not deterred. In the meantime he says he loves working for BLM and he

continued from Front page

BLM staff pondered whether the sale would proceed because of a lawsuit requesting it halted. However, the judge allowed the sale go forward but disallowed any surface disturbance until an upcoming ruling.

As oil companies' bids came into our public information center, **Janie Fisher** and **Peggy Richardson** were the contact representatives processing the sealed bids.

This was Fisher's third lease sale. "It's fun because I love dealing with people," said Fisher. I know the oil companies. I've been dealing with them for a long time. But what we do is real important especially after the sale, we're responsible for the deposit of millions of dollars."

In mid-May, the mock lease sale was held at the MMS offices in midtown Anchorage. BLM staff handled 50 bids from fictional oil companies. At the head table State Director **Henri Bisson** read bids processed by employees seated at the table. In the corner, **Rob Brumbaugh** and **Tim Lawlor** operated computers that projected bids on tracts. Brumbaugh explained that during the sale a map is projected and as bids are made the color of the tracts change. "It's a visual way to show where industry is interested."

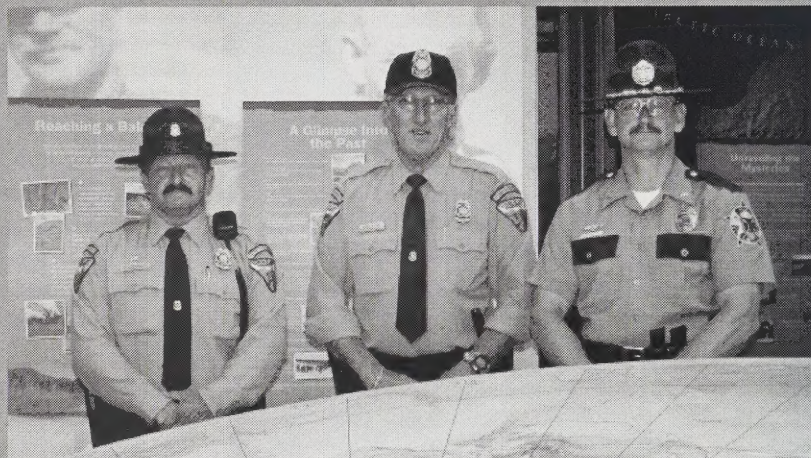
Once read, the bids were taken to a closed, secure "back room" to be tallied and verified. The work group arranged bids by tract, entered data into an Excel spreadsheet and calculated 20 per cent of bids paid to the BLM at the conclusion of the sale. Bid forms and checks are verified for accuracy and highest and unsuccessful bids are noted.

On the day of the sale, special agent **Brad England** and Anchorage Field Office ranger **Mimi Rogers** escorted Fisher and Richardson to the Lousacc Library where the sale was held. After the



The opening of the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center on June 29 in Coldfoot can be partially attributed to the hard work of the five women above. (l-r)

Pam Tacquard, ex-BLM Coldfoot Visitor Center Coordinator; **Lisa Shon Jodwalis**, NFO, AIVC center coordinator; **Sandy Westcott**, NFO, ex-Coldfoot Visitor Center Coordinator; **Lenore Heppler**, NFO AIVC development project manager; Heidi Schoopenhorst, NPS AIVC employee.



Although several VIPs couldn't make the opening of the arctic visitor center due to smoke and fires burning in interior Alaska, law enforcement on hand included: (l-r) NFO rangers **Ed Lee** and **Mike Billbe** and Alaska state trooper **Curt Beddingfield**.

sale, back in the public information center, Richardson, Fisher, Taylor and **Melissa Ainsworth** receipted all the money which was deposited in the bank the next day.

In the end, five oil companies bid millions of dollars to develop oil and gas leases on 1,403,561 acres in the petroleum reserve.

But it was the teamwork of employees like **Rob Ellefson** who kept the bids coming to **Dave Howell** and **Christie Jennings** who accumulated final bids taken by **Harrison Griffin** to the "back room" that enabled BLM to conduct its own lease sale.



Arlan and Carole Kohl and "lil" Bugger

WHERE HAVE ALL THE RETIREES GONE?

In the last issue of *Alaska People*, retirees were asked how they were doing and what they would do differently to prepare for retirement. The following is information condensed from retirees

"Hire some help because when you retire you get so busy you can't do it all alone."

Arlan Kohl
Kalispell, Montana

Update:

Arlan recently returned home from a trip to Alaska where he and 30 Alaska pipeline office employees got together.

He retired in 1987 and with the help of his family has built his home and his son's house. Between house building and taking care of his 20 acres, he's done some traveling. He and his wife have been to all 50 states, all the Canadian provinces and territories except the Northwest territory and the new province of Nunavut. He's active with his church and has made four mission trips to Mexico. Every year Arlan attends a mini BLM retiree party in Montana with ex-Alaska attendees that include **Horace Sanders, Art Hosterman, Reed Smith, Perry Francis, Billy Butts, Woody Borsvold, Lyle Linnel and Marty Karstetter.**

Russ Hanson
Seaside, Oregon

Update:

Russ lost his wife, Janice, to cancer a couple years into retirement. His household consists of an aging Siamese cat and hyperactive Weimaraner/Lab mix. He's involved with his church. He surf fishes and caught a 65-pound halibut outside Newport a couple years ago. Russ gave up golf after he broke his ankle.

In 1971, he toured Egypt and much of the Nile valley from Cairo to near Sudan. He says the contrast between the lush valley and surrounding desert was amazing. This year he toured Thailand. He found it hot, humid and cheap! He's visited the Golden Triangle where Thailand, Mayanmar (Burma) and Laos come together and saw the bridge on the River Kwai.

Advice:

"If you think you want to move consider the loss of friends, doctors, dentists, and all the rest of the structure of your life. If Florida sounds great in December be sure to try it in August. Be sure that you look at the finances closely. The old saw about the retiree's wife, "Twice as much husband on half

as much money is true. Don't delay doing the things you want to do until after retirement. Believe me those 15-hour flights are no fun for us old folks. Nothing is wrong with retirement, just make sure it's fun."

Louise Todd,
Baker City, Oregon

Update:

Louise retired in 1987 from the Anchorage District. She worked 10 years for the ADO and 21 years at BLM's office in Baker City. She returned to Baker City where her family lives — sister, grandson, granddaughter and two great granddaughters. Louise does volunteer work, golfs and does some traveling. She was inundated with volunteer requests and has learned to say no despite three ongoing volunteer commitments.

She has never mastered golf but still enjoys it when the weather agrees. She still travels, but sold her motorhome and travels now in organized motorcoach tours.

Advice:

"Take time for yourself! Be selective, choose the activities for which you and your family have so diligently worked."

COOL NEWS



Alaska Leadership Team's Dance Moves are Hit at Picnic. This year's picnic was held at the YMCA so some members of Alaska's Leadership Team elected to perform the YMCA song in front of hundreds of enthusiastic employees. (l-r) **Ramona Chinn**, Associate DSD, Conveyances; **June Bailey**, AFO manager; **Debbie Hollen**, Acting DSD Resources, Lands and Planning; **George Oviatt**, acting Associate State Director; **Colleen McCarthy**, DSD Energy & Solid Minerals; **Craig Frichtl**, acting DSD Cadastral Survey and **Gust Panos**, DSD Geographic Sciences.



Clinton Hanson

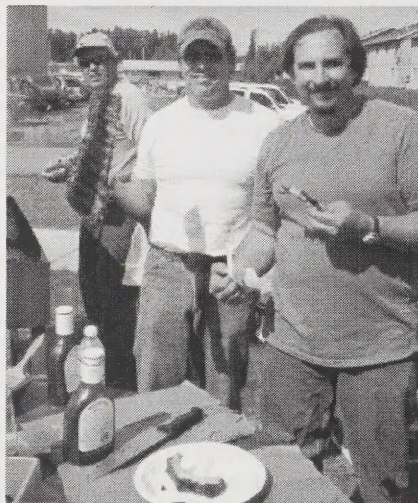
MANAGER GETS BIG GAME AWARD

Clinton Hanson, acting AFO associate field manager, was recently notified that he earned the second award for the Boone and Crockett Club's 25th North American Big Game Awards in the caribou barren ground category. Hanson's caribou had a score of 424 and 6/8. The score is a sum total of the length of the rack's points, length of beam and horn diameter. He shot the caribou September 2003 north of Dillingham. The awards were presented at the 25th Awards Program Banquet June 19 in Kansas City, Missouri.

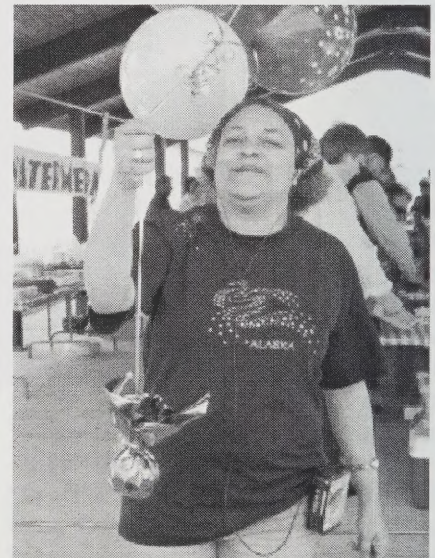
BLM PICNIC GAINING POPULARITY

A change of venue and limited parking didn't deter BLMers from attending an all employees meeting and picnic on June 10 at the YMCA. About 350 people attended.

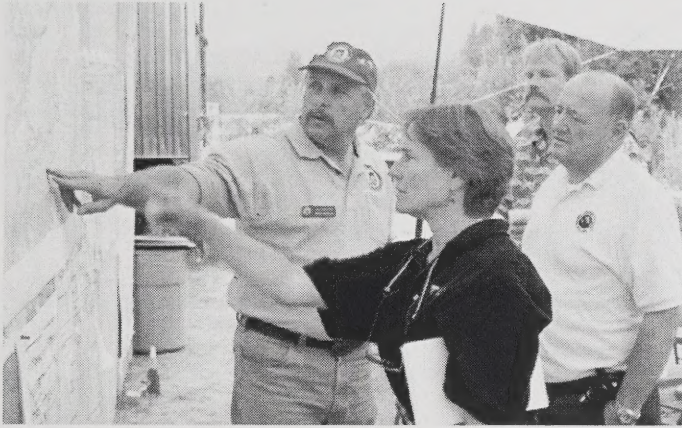
Big hits were the food, (the ribs were fabulous), the softball game; the state office beat Campbell Tract/Joint Pipeline Office (Henri pitched) and the ALT's rendition of the song YMCA which was met with thunderous applause! Can it get any better? We'll see next year!



Are these guys good or what? (l-r) **Chris Noyles** and **Scott Guyer** were the grill masters who kept employees coming back for more ribs and burgers. While **Nathan Rathbun** had the enormous job of getting all our supplies and equipment from the warehouse to the picnic site.



It was all about balloons at the picnic for Geographic Sciences file clerk **Kathleen Jackson**.



Fires, Fires Everywhere. Alaska's fire season is shaping up to be the second largest with more than four million acres burned to date. Above: Former Alaska external affairs chief **Anne Jeffery** came to Fairbanks to lend her expertise, also pictured are Wayne Klechner, Forest Service, **Fran Cherry**, Deputy Director and **Skip Theisen**, NFO fire management officer. (Left-In June the State's Dept. of Resources Commissioner Tom Irwin, Senator Lisa Murkowski and SD **Henri Bisson** confer after overflying fires burning in Alaska.

HEALTH

Employees are encouraged to use the Health Unit on the fifth floor of the Anchorage Federal Building. BLM and other select federal agencies fund the unit's operation.

The unit dispenses medication, offers immunizations, cholesterol screening and much more. Take a break and stop by and visit. You'll be surprised what they offer.

Federal Bldg. Fitness Center

The Federal Building Fitness committee has selected a personal trainer who is now available to train members for a fee.

Look for announcements for Pilates and Yoga classes to begin in September and October. Also fitness members should mark their calendars for the upcoming annual meeting scheduled for October 20.

Federal building employees interested in becoming a member should call 271.3335.

COMINGS

Judith Alexander, mail clerk, Support, Northern Field Office
Jenny Anderson, land law examiner, Conveyance Mgmt.
Douglas Carpenter, safety and occupational health spec, Northern Field Office
Rose Cunningham, data administrator, Support Services, Alaska State Office
Glanda Garwood, fire support assistant, Alaska Fire Service
Tami Jindra, information receptionist, Glennallen Field Office
Glenda Miller, land law examiner, Conveyance Management
Pat McClenahan, planner, Anchorage Field Office
Leah Pellow, geographic information systems coordinator, Re-

sources, Lands & Planning
Jeff Ridder, fleet manager, Campbell Tract Facility
Michael Schoder, land surveyor, Cadastral Survey
Larry Standley, hydrologist, Resources, Lands and Planning

GOINGS

Stan Bloom, visual information specialist, Northern Field Office, retired
Betty Drinkwine, staff assistant, Anchorage Field Office
Thomie Gardner, legal instruments examiner, Geographic Sciences, retired
Colene Gearman, human resource specialist, Support Services
Erinn Shirley, natural resource specialist to BLM Butte Montana Field Office

TRANSITION

Louis Doores, supv. carto technician, Resources, Lands and Planning to Conveyances
Renee Elliott, cartographic technician, Resources, Lands, and Planning to Geographic Sciences
Heath Emmons, outdoor recreation planner, Northern Field Office to Glennallen Field Office
James Hollibaugh, cartographic technician, Resources, Lands and Planning to Conveyances
David Howell, program analyst to acting branch chief, Resources and Planning
Frank James, cartographic technician, Resources, Lands and Planning to Cadastral Survey
Connie Van Horn, Native allotment coordinator, Conveyances to navigability specialist, Cadastral Survey

PERSONNEL ACTIONS



Exercises serve as a tool to teach mentors and mentees. (l-r) **Cynthia Bruss, Robin Wellhouse, Pam Chesla, Amanda Worden, Marvin Anunciacion, Belinda Coonrod.** Seated in front (l-r) **Keith Newsome, Eseta Poulivaati.**

MENTORSHIP ORIENTATION PUTS PARTICIPANTS THROUGH PAGES

DSD **Sandy Dunn**, assisted by **Pam Chesla**, led the orientation training for 10 new mentors and 10 mentees in May.

The mentorship program is new to BLM-Alaska and Dunn led the group through a series of exercises that helped participants understand their roles and responsibilities.

For retirees wanting to share words of wisdom and experiences for the next *Alaska People* send your submissions by October 1 to the above address or email to danielle_allen@ak.blm.gov

FRONT PAGE (RIGHT CORNER) - ROHN RIVER CABIN, A FAVORITE REST CABIN USED BY MUSHERS DURING THE IDITAROD SLED DOG RACE, IS MANAGED BY THE BLM

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